

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER.

NO. 16 MARCH-APRIL, 1989

HANDS ACROSS STATE LINES.

Editorial

Do you recall the thrill of "Hands Across America"? The warm feeling that was generated watching neighbors clasp hands with neighbors? The overwhelming mental picture of an unbroken line of people stretching across the nation, friends, families, strangers - all joining hands together to make something good happen!

In December, 1987, the Ohio and Indiana Departments of Natural Resources began quietly working together to jointly purchase a piece of Oxbow property which extends across state lines. In January, 1989, signed options were received from the owner and the purchase is being finalized.

Many obstacles had to be overcome to accomplish what is believed to be unprecedented cooperation between two state agencies.

- Ohio had to be willing to talk to Indiana.
- Indiana had to be willing to talk to Ohio.
- Both had to make commitments to purchase.
- Both had to guarantee funding for the purchase.
- The property owner lives in Texas.
- Negotiations were handled through her son, who lives in Florida.
- Both states had to comply with Federal guidelines dealing with land appraisal.
- Departmental regulations and State laws controlling acquisition of property had to be followed.
- Through all of these, the property owner had to remain patient.

Success was possible only because both Director's, Ohio's Joseph Sommer and Indiana's James Ridenour, share a common commitment to the preservation of the Oxbow. It was their "Hands Across State Lines" that made something good happen!

25.3 acres will now be moved into the "protected wildlife habitat" column. Ohio will gain 18.4 acres and Indiana 6.9 acres. Although the figures may not be impressive, the implications of the purchase are overwhelming. Now state lines no longer have to be a barrier to progress. Invaluable experience has been gained by both Departments which should alleviate future planning for additional land acquisition in the Oxbow.

Between the beginning of negotiations and the present, Mr. Pat Ralston has replaced Mr. Ridenour as Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. We thank Mr. Ridenour for his efforts in behalf of Oxbow, Inc. while serving as Director.

Mr. Sommer is to be commended for his continuing commitment to the Oxbow area.

Oxbow, Inc. welcomes Mr. Ralston to his new position and invites him to carry on the preservation of Indiana's Oxbow wetlands. We look forward to a positive association with Mr. Ralston.

OXBOW WILDLIFE REPORT.

Morris Mercer

The last few weeks have been interesting in the Oxbow area. The Ohio River has ranged from a low of 26' to a high of just over 52'. The weather has been a warm, clear 65° to a brisk zero.

Waterfowl have found the area to their liking. A flock of some 300 Canada geese, as many as 500 mallards and a couple hundred black ducks seem to be enjoying the flooded Oxbow.

Other waterfowl seen in smaller numbers have been the gadwall, pintail, green-winged teal, American wigeon, redhead, canvasback, lesser scaup, common goldeneye and ring-necked duck. I've seen only one common merganser and I miss the black scoter.

There was a nice turnout for the Audubon-Oxbow, Inc. night walk at Shawnee Lookout, January 18th. We enjoyed an almost spring-like, beautifully moon-lit evening. The February 11th Oxbow, Inc. field trip was another hike into the hills of Shawnee Lookout as the Oxbow was covered with ice. From one overlook of the Oxbow area, we saw more than 30 great blue herons. We were also fortunate to observe a red-tailed hawk standing on the ground enjoying a morning's catch. We could see that there were many ducks and gulls on the water hole behind the little cemetery. We saw several of the usual winter species. I, personally, enjoyed the brown creeper and the golden-crowned kinglet.

Several deer were seen, and I believe everyone did see a nice buck. The bucks haven't dropped their antlers yet. The red-tailed hawks are working on the nest. The woodcock should be back in a week or so, as well as many of our webbed-footed friends.

It's time to go afield. There is so much to see. A couple of weeks ago Dave Styer and I were looking over a water hole. We observed two great blues feeding from the wing, more as a pelican would feed than a long legged wading bird. It was a first for both of us to see a great blue heron feed this way. We watched as the two birds made the attempt to pick a fish out of the water while flying. Both were successful.

Check the dates of the field trips and come along!

NEW MASTHEAD FOR THE NEWSLETTER.

Wetland Matters! Just the message Oxbow, Inc. wants to convey. The editor received many suggestions for a title and wishes to thank everyone who submitted an entry. We hope everyone is pleased with the new heading.

The winner was Mrs. Helen Sayers from Madeira, Ohio.

Thanks, Helen! Your T-shirt is on the way.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS.

Judy Bramstedt

Here is your opportunity to meet other people within the Oxbow, Inc. organization. If you have always wanted to help, if you are interested in learning more about the environment around you, and wish to meet people with similar interests, come attend our monthly meetings.

Programs are diversified and will include such topics as Climax Forests, Urban Ecology and in September, a slide photo contest! You have all summer to capture that one-in-a-million shot. There will be prizes for the winners.

We look forward to meeting you!



THE TAX CHECKOFF PROGRAM.

Remember, as you grumble over filling out your State Income Tax form, that you are being afforded an excellent opportunity to support wildlife and natural areas. Just checkoff your refund, directing it either to the Ohio or Indiana Department of Natural Resources, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE or DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS AND PRESERVES.

The Division of Wildlife uses your donation for the protection and management of endangered wildlife such as bald eagles, river otters and barn owls. Your contribution is used to purchase and protect our disappearing wetlands and other valuable habitat. You will also be supporting wildlife research projects, rehabilitation of injured and orphaned animals and education programs that teach the importance of conservation to our youth. Your contribution is essential to ensure the survival of many fragile wildlife resources.

The Division of Natural Areas and Preserves uses your donation for the protection of natural areas, scenic rivers and endangered species. It supports educational programs, new nature preserve trails and important research leading to the protection of endangered plants and animals.

Check the box for the Division you prefer to support by your credit refund.

If you do not have an overpayment, but wish to donate to these important works, you can still do it.

To donate to wildlife, make your check out to "Nongame and Endangered Wildlife, Special Account."

To donate to natural areas, make your check out to "Natural Areas and Preserves, Special Account."

OHIO: Mail your check to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Deputy Director for Recreation Management
Fountain Square
Columbus, Ohio 43224

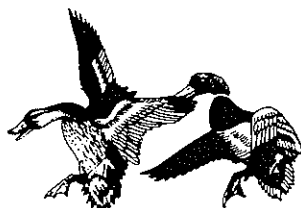
INDIANA: Mail your check to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Licensing Division
607 State Office Building
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Turn tax time into a good time for wildlife and nature!

CORRECTION.

In the January-February issue of the NEWSLETTER, the article which briefly outlined the financial success of Oxbow, Inc. in 1988 failed to include the paragraph, "In late June, the Cincinnati Town and Country Garden Club presented Oxbow, Inc. with a special award of \$2,000. Not only are we grateful for this generous contribution, but we deeply appreciate the interest and support of the club."

We apologize for the omission and sincerely thank Town and Country Garden Club for their gift. AW-Treas.



BIRDATHON '89 COMING SOON.

Art Wiseman

Birds will soon be migrating north, their songs ringing out across the hills and vallies. And birders, attempting to rack up the highest number of species, will be in hot pursuit. What's all the excitement? It's BIRDATHON '89! The competition is building!

Besides having fun and competing against fellow birders, the main purpose of the 24-hour contest is to raise money for the LAND ACQUISITION FUND. Persuade your friends, neighbors and the businesses you patronize to support your team, or yourself, if you enter individually. Have them sign a pledge for a specified amount of money for each species you record. Following BIRDATHON '89, contact them and collect what was pledged. If you wish to make a personal pledge, support the Oxbow, Inc. team by filling out and mailing the attached pledge card. (See next page.)

To improve the contest, there are a few new rules. In addition to the \$25 team entry fee, there will be a mandatory \$10 entry fee for each participant. Entrants will receive a customized T-shirt commemorating their participation in BIRDATHON '89. There will be an informal picnic supper for birders and guests who make reservations. In order to provide sufficient food, RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH. There will be no beverages served, so bring your own.

We have moved the center of the observation area to the corner of the Tri-state, the location of the Oxbow. The count area extends east to Adams County, Ohio, and west to Jennings County, Indiana. This increases the territory in Indiana to include Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

Only teams of two or more, that have complied with all of the rules, will be eligible to win the coveted GOLDEN STARLING AWARD! Since all of the participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, other prizes will not be awarded. Individual birders are encouraged to enter the contest and to register for a T-shirt and the picnic supper.

BIRDATHON '89 will start at 5 P.M. on Friday, May 12th and will end at 5 P.M. on Saturday, May 13th at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve. You may start birding from any location in the count area but you must return to the Farbach-Werner "Finish Line" to submit your list of species by the required deadline. Each minute you are late will cost you one species from your list.

If you wish to take part in the contest, write or call Art Wiseman, % Oxbow, Inc., 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214, 513-481-4302. A packet of rules, information, entry blanks, etc. will be mailed to you. We encourage all of our members to either form a team or pledge to support the Oxbow, Inc. team. JOIN THE FUN OF BIRDATHON '89!

(detach here)

BIRDATHON '89 INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE NO. _____

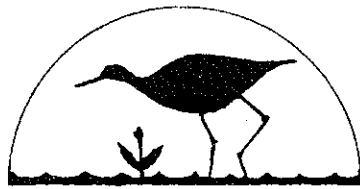
TEAM NAME _____

T-SHIRT SIZE _____ SM _____ MED _____ LG _____ XL

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FEE \$10 EA. _____ (Not tax deductible.)

I-WE WILL BE AT THE TALLY _____ YES _____ NO--AT THE PICNIC _____ YES _____ NO

Make check payable to: Oxbow, inc. Fill out, detach and mail to:
Oxbow, Inc.
2073 Harrison Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45214



OXBOW, inc.
 2073 Harrison Ave.
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

TREASURER'S REPORT - 1988

A. J. WISEMAN, TREASURER

CASH RECEIPTS

Cash Balance, Checking Acct. (1/1/88)	\$ 28,997 99
Membership Dues	15,161 00
Donations, not specified	2,215 20
Interest from checking acct.	2,365 04
Contributions Specified for Land Fund	4,470 00
Oxbow Birdathon, Contributions received	8,555 52
Raffle Ticket Sales	550 70
T-shirts Sold	5,114 50
Prints Sold, Wm. Zimmerman and R. Scott	165 00
Funds collected for Hamilton County Park Levy	715 00
Contributions Specified for New Brochure	1,500 00
Sale of Corn, Harvested from Oxbow Land	739 71

<u>TOTAL CASH AND CASH RECEIPTS</u>	\$ 70,549 66

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CASH EXPENDITURES

Phone, Postage, Supplies, etc	\$ 749 73
Programs for Members Meetings	70 83
Publicity and Newsletters	1,804 58
Wood Duck Boxes, (Paint)	54 80
Birdathon Expenses (Printing, Mailing supplies)	126 18
T-shirts Purchased	3,198 00
Land Appraisal (Before Purchase)	800 00
Misc Expenses, Bulk Mail Permit, etc	198 17
Paid to Hamilton County Park District for Levy	801 85

<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	\$ 7,804 14

CASH ON HAND FOR DEPOSIT 1,500 00

CASH BALANCE, CHECKING ACCT. (12/31/88) \$ 61,245 52

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND CASH BALANCE (12/31/88) \$ 70,549 66

The above figures represent a full and complete report of all monies received and/or disbursed by the Treasurer of OXBOW, INC during the year from January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1988

27 Jan 1989
 Dated:

Arthur J. Wiseman
 Arthur J. Wiseman, Treasurer

ZIMMERMAN PRINT "GOES TO THE DOGS."

Art Wiseman

At the Bob Hart Sport, Travel and Boat Show, members of Oxbow, Inc. sold chances on a print of Indiana wildlife artist William Zimmerman's painting, "Mallards in Flight." When the winning ticket was drawn at the end of the show, it listed Lou Brueggemeyer and a phone number. I called but was told Lou was not available. In response to my question as to when to expect him, the phone voice asked, "What is this all about?"

In replying to my explanation, the voice said, "I'm John Brueggemeyer. My wife and I were at the show Saturday when we bought that chance. We both loved the print so we put Lou's name on the ticket. You see, Lou is the family dog and a big dog chewed him up a few days ago so we were feeling sorry for him. Apparently, putting his name on the ticket brought us good luck."

Well, we were pleased that Lou won the print because the Brueggemeyer's love both of them. When we said they could pick up the print, they were at our door in short order. We did not get to meet Lou because he was still too weak to travel but we are happy to report that he's feeling better now and the whole family is enjoying Lou's prize.



MEMORIALS ESTABLISHED BY OXBOW, INC.

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials to honor those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or loved one will be enrolled permanently in the records of the corporation. Each contribution to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor. Each contribution should be sent to the Treasurer, Oxbow, Inc., 2073 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45214. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of the donor and those to receive an acknowledgement.

The following Memorials have been established with Oxbow, Inc.:

In Memory of:

James J. Anderson;
H. William Rettig;
H. William Rettig
Stanley M. Rowe, Sr.
Veronica Kanuschak
Veronica Kanuschak
Edwin Baer
Walter A. Rentschler
Mrs. Helen Vonderheide
David Hand
David Hand
David Hand
Dr. Clyde S. Roof
Nancy Pangello Woodruff
Dr. E.A. Kindel, Sr.
Gus Reininger

Donor:

Karl Maslowski
James Rettig
Art & Jinny Wiseman
Mrs. James J. Anderson
Norma L. Flannery
Julie Godsey
Albert E. Lane
W. Rowell Chase
Bill & Ann Moring
Edd. Young Family
Greg. Young Family
Fred. Young Family
W. Rowell Chase
Norma L. Flannery
W. Rowell Chase
Albert E. Lane



Meetings

TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 7:30P.M. Museum of Natural History Auditorium. Enter through the side door. 1720 Gilbert Avenue. Ken Olson is the speaker. His topic will be "In Communion With The Earth." Light refreshments will be served.

TUESDAY, APRIL 11TH, 7:30P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library. Turn left off of U.S.50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street. Ruth Trosset will show slides of the many species of wild flowers to be found in the Oxbow area. A good reminder that Spring is on the way! Come and enjoy.



Field Trips

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH, 9:00A.M. Meet at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, U.S. 50 and I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit. Observe ducks and waterfowl on the Oxbow area.

Dave Styer. 513-772-4395

SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH, 8:00A.M. BIRDING FESTIVAL. Meet at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, U.S. 50 and I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit. An annual birding festival honoring John James Audubon's birthday. Come for the A.M. count of Oxbow species and stay for the early afternoon tally. Bring a bag lunch.

Morris Mercer 513-941-2534



MOVING?

Make sure your NEWSLETTER goes with you.

Name

New Address

Old Address

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Effective Date

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Ave Cinti, OH 45214

Corporation Officers

President, Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
Vice President, Rick Bramstedt	812-438-2129
Secretary, Bonnie Fancher	812-438-3641
Treasurer, Art Wiseman	513-481-4302
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Preservation, Ned Keller	513-941-6497
Programs, Judy Bramstedt	812-438-2129
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers' Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck	513-631-5933

Editor

Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
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Oxbow, Inc.

A non-profit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands area known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from future industrial development and to preserve the existing agricultural floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This is an agricultural area rich in geological, archaeological and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland. You can make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource.

Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is solicited and encouraged

Individual	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

Mail to: OXBOW, INC.	2073 Harrison Avenue	Cincinnati, Ohio 45214
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Oxbow, Inc.
2073 Harrison Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45214

